Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A vacuum sweeper vehicle comprising:

a sweeper body including a frame having attached thereto an axle apparatus;

a pair of steerable front wheels supported by ~~an~~ said axle apparatus at a forward end of said sweeper body, the axle apparatus being constructed to provide a space between said front wheels;

a pair of rear wheels supported at a rearward end of said sweeper body;

a container coupled to said sweeper body for receiving debris;

a suction hose extending between said container and a vacuum nozzle proximal a forward end of said sweeper body, said suction hose extending through said space between said front wheels ~~such that the suction hose intersects a longitudinal axis of said axle apparatus that extends between the front wheels~~;

a suction device for drawing said debris from said nozzle, into said container; and

at least one brush coupled to a forward end of said sweeper body for sweeping debris from a ground surface.

Claim 2 (Original): The vacuum sweeper vehicle according to claim 1, wherein said axle apparatus comprises at least a pair of axle members defining an elbow.

Claim 3 (Original) The vacuum sweeper vehicle according to claim 1, wherein said axle apparatus comprises at least a pair of axle members defining an elbow such that the axle members form an included angle with respect to each other.

Claim 4 (Original): The vacuum sweeper vehicle according to claim 1, wherein said axle apparatus comprises a pair of rear axle members and a pair of forward axle members, the pairs of axle members constructed to leave said space between the wheels.

Claim 5 (Original): The vacuum sweeper vehicle according to claim 4, wherein said axle members form a polygonal axle apparatus around said space between the wheels.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The vacuum sweeper vehicle according to ~~claim 4~~ claim 5, wherein said polygon is a quadrilateral.

Claim 7 (Original): The vacuum street sweeper vehicle according to claim 1, wherein said nozzle is supported on a roller apparatus for rolling said nozzle proximal a ground surface.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The vacuum street sweeper vehicle according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 7, wherein said roller apparatus extends forward to said sweeper body.

Claim 9 (Original): The vacuum street sweeper vehicle according to claim 1, further comprising an operator's cab at said forward end of said sweeper body.

Claim 10 (Original): The vacuum street sweeper vehicle according to claim 4, further comprising a leaf spring connected between a pair of forward axle members and a front portion of the sweeper vehicle.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The vacuum street sweeper vehicle according to claim 10, wherein said leaf spring ~~in~~ is connected at a center portion thereof to said forward axle members and is connected at each end to a front portion of the sweeper vehicle.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): In a vacuum sweeper vehicle having a sweeper body including a frame, a container coupled to the sweeper body for receiving debris, a suction hose extending between a vacuum nozzle proximal a forward end of the body of said container, a suction device for drawing debris from the nozzle into the container, and at least one brush connected to a forward end of the sweeper for sweeping debris from a ground surface,

a pair of rear wheels supported at a rear end of said sweeper body;

a pair of steerable front wheels; and

an axle apparatus attached to said frame, said axle apparatus supporting said pair of front wheels at a forward end of said sweeper body, the axle apparatus being constructed to provide a space between said front wheels whereby said suction hose extends through said space between said front wheels ~~such that the suction hose intersects a longitudinal axis of said axle apparatus that extends between the front wheels~~.

Claim 13 (Original): The vacuum sweeper vehicle according to claim 12, wherein said axle apparatus comprises at least a pair of axle members defining an elbow such that the axle members form an included angle with respect to each other.

Claim 14 (Original): The vacuum sweeper vehicle according to claim 12, wherein said axle apparatus comprises a pair of rear axle members and a pair of forward axle members, the pairs of axle members constructed to leave said space between the wheels.

Claim 15 (Original): The vacuum sweeper vehicle according to claim 14, wherein said axle members form a polygonal axle apparatus around said space between the wheels.

Claim 16 (Original): The vacuum sweeper vehicle according to claim 14, further comprising a leaf spring connected between a pair of forward axle members and a front portion of the sweeper vehicle.

Claim 17 (Original): The vacuum street sweeper vehicle according to claim 16, wherein said leaf spring is connected at a center portion thereof to said forward axle members and is connected at each end to a front portion of the sweeper vehicle.

Claim 18 (Original): The vacuum street sweeper vehicle according to claim 12, further comprising an operator's cab at said forward end of said sweeper body.

Claim 19 (New): A vacuum sweeper vehicle comprising:

a sweeper body including a frame;

a pair of front wheels supported by an axle apparatus at a forward end of said sweeper body, the axle apparatus comprising at least one axle member defining an elbow, said axle apparatus being constructed to provide a space between said front wheels;

a pair of rear wheels supported at a rearward end of said sweeper body;

a container coupled to said sweeper body for receiving debris;

a suction hose extending between said container and a vacuum nozzle proximal a forward end of said sweeper body, said suction hose extending through said space between said front wheels;

a suction device for drawing said debris from said nozzle, into said container; and

at least one brush coupled to a forward end of said sweeper body for sweeping debris from a ground surface.

Claim 20 (New): The vacuum sweeper vehicle according to claim 19, wherein said axle apparatus comprises at least a pair of axle members defining an elbow such that the axle members form an included angle with respect to each other.

Claim 21 (New): The vacuum sweeper vehicle according to claim 19, wherein said axle apparatus comprises a pair of rear axle members and a pair of forward axle members, the pairs of axle members constructed to leave said space between the wheels.

Claim 22 (New): The vacuum sweeper vehicle according to claim 21, wherein said axle members form a polygonal axle apparatus around said space between the wheels.

Claim 23 (New): The vacuum sweeper vehicle according to claim 22, wherein said polygon is a quadrilateral.

Claim 24 (New): The vacuum street sweeper vehicle according to claim 19, wherein said nozzle is supported on a roller apparatus for rolling said nozzle proximal a ground surface.

Claim 25 (New): The vacuum street sweeper vehicle according to claim 24, wherein said roller apparatus extends forward to said sweeper body.

Claim 26 (New): The vacuum street sweeper vehicle according to claim 19, further comprising an operator's cab at said forward end of said sweeper body.

Claim 27 (New): The vacuum street sweeper vehicle according to claim 21, further comprising a leaf spring connected between a pair of forward axle members and a front portion of the sweeper vehicle.

Claim 28 (New): The vacuum street sweeper vehicle according to claim 27, wherein said leaf spring is connected at a center portion thereof to said forward axle members and is connected at each end to a front portion of the sweeper vehicle.

Claim 29 (New): In a vacuum sweeper vehicle having a sweeper body, a container coupled to the sweeper body for receiving debris, a suction hose extending between a vacuum nozzle proximal a forward end of the body of said container, a suction device for drawing debris from the nozzle into the container, and at least one brush connected to a forward end of the sweeper for sweeping debris from a ground surface,

a pair of rear wheels supported at a rear end of said sweeper body;

a pair of front wheels; and

an axle apparatus supporting said pair of front wheels at a forward end of said sweeper body, the axle apparatus being constructed to provide a space between said front wheels whereby said suction hose extends through said space between said front wheels,

wherein said axle apparatus comprises at least one axle member defining an elbow such that the axle members form an included angle with respect to each other.

Claim 30 (New): The vacuum sweeper vehicle according to claim 29, wherein said axle apparatus comprises a pair of rear axle members and a pair of forward axle members, the pairs of axle members constructed to leave said space between the wheels.

Claim 31 (New): The vacuum sweeper vehicle according to claim 30, wherein said axle members form a polygonal axle apparatus around said space between the wheels.

Claim 32 (New): The vacuum sweeper vehicle according to claim 30, further comprising a leaf spring connected between a pair of forward axle members and a front portion of the sweeper vehicle.

Claim 33 (New): The vacuum street sweeper vehicle according to claim 32, wherein said leaf spring is connected at a center portion thereof to said forward axle members and is connected at each end to a front portion of the sweeper vehicle.

Claim 34 (New): The vacuum street sweeper vehicle according to claim 29, further comprising an operator's cab at said forward end of said sweeper body.